

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No: 10/708,677
Filing Date: March 18, 2004
Applicant(s): Offerle et al.
Confirmation No: 2676
Group Art Unit: 3657
Examiner: Christopher P. Schwartz
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PREDICTING THE
POSITION OF A TRAILER RELATIVE TO A VEHICLE
Attorney Docket No: 81095828 (36190-24)
Customer No: 28549

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

APPELLANTS' REPLY BRIEF

Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Answer mailed December 11, 2008, Appellants respond as follows.

REMARKS

The substance of the Examiner's Answer is capsulized in statements at page 9 of the Answer, wherein the Examiner asserts that Okamoto teaches a vehicle parking system displaying a predicted vehicle route image on a screen and that Fischer teaches a "similar system" that uses brake steer and steering angle sensors. The Examiner asserts that Fischer includes a trailer angle sensor, citing Fischer at Column 9, line 43 to Column 10.

Appellants appreciate the chance to read the Fischer reference in English, but cannot find any support for the assertion that Fischer includes a trailer angle sensor. Nevertheless, the fact of the matter is that notwithstanding the Examiner's arguments, neither Okamoto, nor Fischer, whether taken singly, or in combination with each other, teach or suggest the claimed display, set forth in each of Appellants' independent claims, of a predicted path of a trailer in response to the current trailer position and the steering wheel angle. Okamoto, as noted in Appellants' Brief, does not disclose anything regarding intra-vehicle issues. In other words, Okamoto teaches nothing about trailer usage. Fischer, on the other hand, displays only a desired or corrective steering wheel angle; Fischer discloses nothing regarding either displaying trailer-to-tow vehicle attitude or predicting the attitude of a trailer with respect to a tow vehicle. Thus, no combination of Okamoto and Fischer could possibly include the display of a predicted attitude of a trailer with respect to a tow vehicle, based upon the recited data; as a consequence each of the claims in this case remains allowable over the Examiner's rejection.

Concluding Remarks

Appellant renews the request that the Examiner's rejection be reversed and that each of Claims 1-30 be passed to issue.

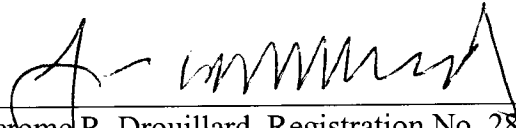
The Patent Office is authorized to charge any fee deficiency or refund any excess to Deposit Account No. 06-1510.

Respectfully submitted,

DICKINSON WRIGHT PLLC

Date: _____

1/9/09


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